

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2003

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS ARE RECORDED ELECTRONICALLY OR STENOGRAPHICALLY AND ARE AVAILABLE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES.

Board President Swafford called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:05 p.m.

Board members present: Tom Swafford, Jeff Ehman, Dick Eherenman, Tim Henke, Patrick Murphy, and ex-officio members Tim Mayer and Tom Micuda. Staff members present: Mike Phillips, Mike Bengtson, Margaret Dalle-Ave, Kai Schnippe, Steve Drake, John Trotter, Tom Staley, Steve Saulter, Julie Martindale, Chris Burleson, Laurel Pierrard, Vickie Renfrow, and Mike Butcher. Also present: Lynn Coyne, Hank Hewetson, Mark Menefee, and Jeff Kaden all representing Indiana University, Sarah Morin of the Herald-Times, Bill Ramsey of the RHS Water Corporation, and Fred Prall. (A copy of the sign-up sheet is attached to the minutes.)

ROLL CALL:

6 members present.

MINUTES:

EHRENMAN MOVED AND EHMEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2003, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED. 6 AYES. 1 MEMBER ABSENT (WHITE).

CLAIMS:

EHRENMAN MOVED AND VAUGHT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

CLAIMS 0391271 THROUGH 0391352 INCLUDING \$293,024.68 FROM THE WATER OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND FOR A TOTAL OF \$293,024.68 FROM THE WATER UTILITY; CLAIMS 0330819 THROUGH 0330863 INCLUDING \$288,250.77 FROM THE WASTEWATER OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND FOR A TOTAL OF \$288,250.77 FROM THE FROM THE WASTEWATER UTILITY; AND CLAIMS 0370058 THROUGH 0370061 INCLUDING \$7,323.21 FROM THE WASTEWATER/STORMWATER FUND FOR A TOTAL OF \$7,323.21 FROM THE WASTEWATER/STORMWATER UTILITY. TOTAL CLAIMS APPROVED – \$588,598.66. MOTION CARRIED. 6 AYES. 1 MEMBER ABSENT (WHITE).

ENGINEERING INTERN REPORT:

Kai Schnippe, Engineering Department intern from Germany, showed a PowerPoint presentation about his internship with the Utilities Department. (A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.) Board and staff members thanked Kai for his excellent work and wished him the best of luck in the future.

AUTOMATIC METER READINGS:

Engineering Intern Kai Schnippe showed a PowerPoint presentation about automatic meter readings. (A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.)

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR 2004

Utilities Director Phillips showed a PowerPoint presentation about the 2004 budget for the Utilities Department. (A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.) Mr. Phillips explained the budget request and explained that the proposed wastewater and stormwater increases were necessary to complete the work outlined in the budget. Mr. Phillips also presented information re. the wet weather program. Lynn Coyne, representing Indiana University, requested that the vote on this budget be postponed until the September 8, 2003, Utilities Service Board meeting. Assistant City Attorney Vickie Renfrow explained that this would not be possible because the budget needs to be presented to the City of Bloomington Common Council on both September 3, 2003, and September 10, 2003. There is a state-mandated date by which the Council must approve the City budget. Board President Swafford then inquired if it were possible to approve the budget at tonight's meeting and make amendments to it if possible at the September 8, 2003, meeting. This would cause an amended budget to be presented at the Common Council meeting on September 10, 2003. Assistant City Attorney stated that this is possible. Board member Vaught stated that the Finance Subcommittee met and considered the budget. After a thorough discussion about many items and, even though reservations about the budget still existed, members of the Finance Subcommittee decided to recommend approval of the budget.

VAUGHT MOVED AND EHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2004 BUDGET FOR THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT WITH THE CONDITION THAT AN AMENDMENT COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2003, FOR FINAL APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED. 6 AYES. 1 MEMBER ABSENT (WHITE).

WASTEWATER RATE ADJUSTMENT:

EHRENMAN MOVED AND HENKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE WATER AND WASTEWATER ADJUSTMENTS AS PRESENTED IN ORDINANCE NO. 03-24. MOTION CARRIED. 6 AYES. 1 MEMBER ABSENT (WHITE).

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Swafford –

Board President Swafford stated that he received a letter from Frank Harper requesting that patio homes be included in the category to receive a summer sewer average. Mr. Swafford said that a meeting of the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee will be scheduled and this matter discussed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative Subcommittee –

Board member Vaught stated that the Administrative Subcommittee met to consider a number of customer complaints. These complaints mostly dealt with the landlord/tenant problem. The recommendation was the same as usual – the landlord be held responsible for only the last 60 days of the bill and then the former tenant be actively pursued for collection. All those with a complaint will receive a letter regarding the recommendations of the Administrative Subcommittee.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee –

Board Vice President Ehman reported that the 4th meeting of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee was held to further discuss stormwater utility issues. The discussion at this meeting centered on budget matters and the rate adjustments for the stormwater utility. Two more meetings will be held to discuss this matter.

STAFF REPORTS:

Mike Phillips –

Utilities Director Phillips reminded those present that a budget was prepared for a series of years and not for just one year at a time. It is possible that further rate increases will be necessary to fulfill the financial needs of the utility.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Margaret Dalle-Ave –

Assistant Director Dalle-Ave presented Board members with a copy of the June 2003 financial statements for the three utilities.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

L. Thomas Swafford, President